



**Town of Camden  
Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Downtown Network Board**

**February 10, 2014  
3:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Co-Chair Peter Gross, John Arnold, Pete Brown, Martin Cates, Dave Jackson, Robin McIntosh, Amy Rollins, Lowrie Sargent, Jennifer Temple, Town Manager Pat Finnigan, Development Director Brian Hodges, and Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Wilson.

Guests: Don White, Camden Select Board; Gene McKeever, Harbor Committee

**ABSENT:** Erick Anderson, Bernice Berger, Ellis Cohn, Staci Coomer, Flint Decker, Deb Dodge, Samantha Hill, Cindy Lampley, Jill Lang, Barrie Pribyl, Meg Quijano, Oscar Verest and Kipp Wright.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

**2. Approval of Board Minutes**

Pete Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dave Jackson. It was unanimously approved.

**3. Public Landing Design Report - prioritizing and recommending to Select Board**

Regarding the Public Landing, Brian Hodges said we have funding for two items: expanding the boardwalk and installing the fisherman's hoist. The project would also include improvements in lighting. Hodges said there are five projects that are ready to go if funding were obtained: improving the entrance to the public landing near Cappy's; improving Commercial Street so it's safer for pedestrians; relocating the Roberta Smith Memorial tree; relocating the Harbormaster's building; and designing and constructing the three archways.

Lowrie Sargent noted that the undergrounding of utilities should be discussed and perhaps completed prior to any other construction on the landing. He also told the group that storm drains need to be evaluated. Don White observed that these structural questions could be more important than the other priorities on the list. Town Manager Finnigan noted that Prock Marine or Gartley & Dorsky would have information on the storm drains and other structural issues. Brian Hodges suggested keeping the foundational infrastructure piece separate from the priorities list, adding that the money for the boardwalk has to be spent by Dec 31, 2014. Peter Gross said that some items on the list may not be dependent on the undergrounding of utilities.

The group suggested a couple of items to go to the top of the list: Commercial Street access (since it's a safety issue) and moving the Harbormaster's building so that the alternate

location could be tried out before a permanent structure is placed there. Brian will cluster the other projects on the list according to a possible timeline for the next meeting.

**4. Visitors' Center - what do we want?**

Combining the public restrooms with the Visitors' Center was discussed. Don White noted that the Visitors' Center may have to be locked down at night if the public restrooms stay open 24 hours. The group talked over whether the Visitors' Center should be staffed and whether the public facilities should include showers and laundry. Ideas for what kind of Visitors' Center Camden wants were discussed, and Amy Rollins said discussions on this topic were underway at the CDBG.

**5. Downtown Tax Increment Financing amendment**

Peter Gross described the amendment to the Downtown TIF district and said that a Special Town Meeting to vote on the amendment would be held at the next Select Board meeting on February 25th. He added that February 28th was the deadline to send the proposed amendment to the state. Hodges described details of the TIF program as well as the Credit Enhancement Agreement that was being proposed as part of the amendment.

*Pete Brown made a motion that the Downtown Network Board endorse the amendment to the Downtown TIF District. Dave Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.*

**6. Marketing Summit; Boston Globe Travel Show; Maine Motorcoach Network**

Hodges reported on the recent Marketing Summit where several of the groups that market Camden convened to talk about common messaging. He said that the representatives of these groups agreed that this effort was necessary and that they should continue to meet.

Hodges said that the Boston Travel Show had been successful. Robin McIntosh added that the Chamber personnel had handed out 24,000 pieces of material at their booth and had distributed 15 cases of Jewels.

The number of motorcoaches visiting Camden is increasing, Hodges reported. He described his work with motorcoach companies to attract them to our area.

Pete Brown spoke about implementation of the downtown streetscape and said he would send out a link to a Ted talk on tactical urbanism.

**7. Comprehensive Plan Review - Chapters 3 Economy and 4 Downtown**

Lowrie Sargent talked about the Comp Plan, saying the editing process had been going on for about a year and a half and that there was more than that to go. Groups are reviewing the plan chapter by chapter, he said, and offering their input. He said those involved are trying to make the report more readable and useful as a reference tool, not just for committees and staff but also for businesses looking to move to town. He asked that the DNB members review Chapters 3 and 4 in time for the next meeting.

**8. Public Comments/Questions**

There was no public comment.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Downtown Network Board will be held March 10th.

**Adjourn**

*Pete Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Jackson seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Brace  
Recording Secretary